4/9/79

Crixus & Oenomaus
(Spartacus)

Tiberius Gracchus
Eb Braid
'Lived before his time'

Rotherhithe - Redriff -
Wipers

Boozed Murphy

Putting together the Ana
in Harrow

The S.L. written Nov 66
— March 67

Ana etc mostly written
in Shef. Ter. — put
together in Harrow

c/o The Little Company of Mary,
Calvary Nursing Home
Harrow on the Hill Middlesex

Sept 4th 1974.

Dearest René

yr letter of the 29th August came this ~~[illegible]~~ morning Sept. 2nd. For which many thanks. but as you dont refer to it I wonder if you have ~~[illegible]~~ received a large envelope with your draft of *Rite & Fortune* with various remarks on it by myself. I gave it to someone to post — & as it was rather a wodge of stuff, she was going to weigh it at the post-office to get the right postage stamps, anyway I do hope it has arrived safely. I thought I ~~[illegible]~~ had better get that *Rite & Fortune* commentary out of the way ~~[illegible]~~. for there ~~is~~ are a lot of other things still to come, commentary on these ~~[illegible]~~ Serpents sheets 29—37 & 42—47 & other pieces, about *Anglo-land* mainly.

But I'll try in this letter, written on Sept. 2nd Monday, to say a few things.

Yes. I chose the names ~~[illegible]~~ Oenomaus & Crixus, because the chaps of that name were, I think the chief lieutenants of ~~Sp~~ Spartacus in the hope that the reader would even unconsciously, recall the association, but not, of course, ~~that~~ meaning that the ~~names~~ names implies the same persons as those leaders under Spartacus.

About Tiberius Gracchus I do say something but cant find the passage of the 'weeping / ~~or~~ ~~far~~ the waste land' & how ~~they~~ defeated by the ~~big~~ big company promoters ~~[illegible]~~ power of ~~[illegible]~~ those who like modern 'mergers' & vast take overs ~~of small~~ & the liquidation of small concerns,

Something missing here

Can't imagine how this is blank.

[illegible] 11D

the latifundia boys, one or further ~~[illegible]~~ overseers come to
pay the ~~the~~ ranch operative while
'this bit for the Urbs wants is the [illegible]'

Where in the ~~[illegible]~~ various sections did I write that
or ~~[illegible]~~ is it in one of the separate fragments?
Ah! at last Middle-sea & Lear-sea page 89, last ten lines of
page. and if I may say so, better than I had thought
for "and when I had a vineyard / on a very fruitful hill, fenced and watered
the syndicate's agent
pays off the ranch operatives &c"
The "when I had a vineyard on a very fruitful hill" is
meant to express the frustration & impotence of the 'small men'
whose small holdings were swept away in the great
take-over bid; they are also ~~the~~ quotation from a passage
in the Scripture but cant recall from where in the O.T. or N.T
Again no Cruden, blast it, otherwise I tell you in a
second!

Ridiff ~~[illegible]~~ pp. 119–120

Ebenezer Bradshaw is saying ~~[illegible]~~
in reply to the Mediterranean skipper's request
~~that~~ that the ~~work~~ repairs ~~&~~ work be done
speedily ... would be expedited' (p. 118)
it would be well worth his (Eb. B.) while
for a tidy consideration (money) ~~[illegible]~~ could
she (the skipper's ship) have preference — for
she must weigh on time or the harbour dues
would ruin him (the Mediterranean skipper)
would E.B. get on with the job quickly
were he for once hustle the job and not so
over nice with the finish'
EB's indignant reply begins on line 7
of p 118: Not for a gratis load etc
the lines at the bottom of p. 119 explain
the reason for the anxiety of
the skipper from Palermo, he had
discharged his cargo & wanted
to take advantage of Thursday's
night tide, otherwise the harbour
~~dues~~ dues would 'ruin him.'
But Eb. B. was not ~~[illegible]~~ prepared
~~to~~ scamp the work ~~[illegible]~~ to
satisfy the unfortunate ship's master.

hence EB:
Aw, as for next Thor's Days
night tide
tell the Wop to go to
Canute see over ④

Tell the wop to-go-to
Canute

④

(P. 120) If he can find him
down at the Galley wall
(though he's many times before his time).

let

But tell him:
we scamp no repairs here
etc.

Apart from the straight quotation from Shakespeare *Lear* used on the title page of *The Anathemata* and *in a sense* meant to apply to the whole work

This prophecie Merlin shall make
for I live before his time.

Said by the Fool, as he was supposed to ~~be of~~ Lear's period whereas 'Merlin' was thought of as ~~[illegible]~~ a figure of the Arthurian romances stemming in Shakespearean thought from Geoffrey of ~~Monmouth~~ Monmouth — it was ~~[illegible]~~ brilliant even for Shakespeare's brilliance to hint at the notion that 'Merlin' and so ~~Arthur~~ Arthur lived in that wholly indefinable ~~[illegible]~~ age of ~~Arthurian~~ mixed legend, history & genuine 'mythe' (I adopt the word you tell me ~~[illegible]~~ Connington used) and make Merddyn the great magician ~~[illegible]~~ into a court Fool such as ~~[illegible]~~ medieval Kings kept to amuse them — and then make things more involved or inverted still, to make a ~~of Lear~~ King (in the sense of a vaguely medieval monarch with Dukes & Earls, as Kent, Gloucester, Cornwall & ~~daugh~~ daughters of varying degrees struggling for power) and to call the King 'Lear' — a variant of the Celtic Lir the father of Manannan in Irish and Llyr ~~[illegible]~~ the father of Manawydan in Brittonic Celtic — cult figures of a prehistoric Celtic pantheon — and especially associated with the sea, ~~[illegible]~~ estuaries storm & weather, & equated with Nodens of the silver hand, with Lud, Llyr Nuadens of the Severn Estuary, ~~[illegible]~~ who

HINT

had a special shrine at Lydney ~~and that~~ ~~fire-rites~~
~~fire-rites (cf. the Vestal fires)~~ and quite lately
in the Roman Occupation of Britain, was given
~~[illegible]~~ stone built temple ~~as~~ as so often was the practice
was worshipped ~~there~~ alongside a typical Classical
Cult-figure — Minerva in this case, I think, &
what always amuses me, ~~the Romans~~ under the
Roman order, the fire was still kept
alive, but they brought coal from the Forest of Dean
in place of wood — more ~~effic~~ efficient &
stable ~~[illegible]~~ & less wasteful than wood.

and of Brigit.

Again I meander, but I wonder if
Shakespeare knew anything about this
Celtic sea-god — there is the association of
wild weather & storm ~~and~~ echoes of ~~the~~ three
daughters who are three waves in some
Nordic-Irish source I think.

However I know that when I
wrote the words I felt them to be
necessary part of the thing I express
in another place page 170 (Feel Rain & Stars)

Did he hear them say
When will you pay me
(or had they not yet grown rich?)
When might that be?
when must that be??
I do not know!
I do not know!
I do not know what time it is
or whether before or after
was it when —
but when is when?
All that we do know is
That far before long ~~ago~~ ago he
sailed our ~~More Marusan~~ More Marusan. ~~[illegible]~~

& see note on page 171!

6 6

Ed. Bradshaw, in that passage on pages 118, 119, 120, is in a determined but exasperated mood. In our language of today he might say something like 'Oh, blast Thursday's night tide, I'm not responsible for the turn of tide, tell the Wolf go to blazes, yes let him come ashore ~~or~~ ~~blow~~ off his steam to Canute (who knew all about tides), that is, supposing he can find him at the Gally Wall – though he's many times before his time.'

Ambiguous, yes, suggesting the vagueness of 'history' but Canute & tide ~~was~~ as is a very wide-spread tale and has the same moral that at whatever time its no use arguing with the rise & fall of tides.

Incidentally in the note on 120 about Gally Wall Rd. it was my mother who told me that when she was a child it was a fixed local tradition that when the Danes besieged London they digged a wide ditch ~~to~~ to take their long ships ~~through~~ the area of Surrey & so outflanked the river to enter the river again higher up. But I made an error in giving my mother's girlhood as the late eighteen seventies this should read ~~eighteen~~ early eighteen sixties, she would have been ~~[illegible]~~ six in 1860 for she was born in 1854. I tried to get this corrected a number of times but it was never done.

Now used of places names only, as Hythe ~~[illegible]~~ on the coast of Kent. O.E. hyth. Sheet hithe or hythe

Redriff I thought was an ~~other~~ alternative name for Rother-hythe which I take to mean (for what reason I do not know) redish – but Rother in OE or ME may have some other meaning altogether. Whereas we all know what hythe means – a ~~[illegible]~~ place or harbourage on a river, or 'haven' of some sort. Again I'm foxed by having none of my reference books here – well very few.

I know only that Rotherhythe was usual form in our days but 'Redriff' also was used by chaps who had resided there. My mother referred to it but as far as I can recall said it was used more in her childhood and ~~[illegible]~~ by the ~~[illegible]~~ locals – rather like 'Ypres' & 'Wipers'. in the 1st War, 'Old sweats' used 'Wipers' & I heard one such say to a man of the New Armies, who had called it 'Wipers.' to which the Old Sweat said "'Ypres' for you if you don't mind, ~~[illegible]~~ – you weren't out in '14, nor '15 neither, 'Wipers' ain't for the likes of you, alright for me as I were out for Mons & in ~~that~~ ~~that show~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~called not call officially~~ that show called not officially 'First Ypres'.

Gangen-lod cis a trans, yes, ~~lignum vitae~~ lignum vitae. ~~[illegible]~~ & teak & other ~~[illegible]~~ heavy wood were brought, I understand, from that part of the Indian continent ~~[illegible]~~ the Ganges has a wide delta has it not or at the extreme north-east of India.
Oh! for a map! .

Not for a boozed Murphy's ball or the Scarlet Pontiff of the West.

That again is wholly derived from what my mother told – I owe virtually all Redriff & a good deal of The Lady of the Pool from conversation with my mother, God rest her, in fact The Ana or large parts of it could not have been made ~~[illegible]~~ in the 1940s – had I not been able to recall things (about Eb. B. & the Pool of London) ~~[illegible]~~ the tales told me of ~~a~~ when I was a child and then again after my return from ~~[illegible]~~ the army in 1919 for in that period ~~after~~ the 1st War ~~[illegible]~~ we conversed a lot – she did not die until 1937.

Now Eb. B was ~~[illegible]~~ C of E. & fact a Warden of a Church in Rotherhythe but of very radical opinions. anyway he

had among his workmen in his ~~ship-yard~~ boat-yard
where he made ~~the~~ masts & blocks and also ~~[illegible]~~ small craft,
an Irish Catholic named Murphy, who, like Tim Finnegan
had a drop of the creature every morn' in fact ~~[illegible]~~ took
~~[illegible]~~ a good few drops at all times of the day.
but Eb B, (almost a teetotaler himself) kept Murphy
on because of his good ~~[illegible]~~ workmanship &
general usefulness & intelligence. Sometimes Murphy
did not turn up ~~at~~ the early hour in the morning
but was then for ~~[illegible]~~ sure a bit late.

Eb. B evidently had a liking for Murphy ~~[illegible]~~ –
in spite of his ~~[illegible]~~ drinking habits & his being
a Catholic. For my mother told me that
~~they~~ Eb B, would ask my brother (who was born a little
before Eb B. died) "Where's Murr?"
to which my brother (still very young) would answer
"Murf boozed," which amused Eb. B. greatly.
So that provided me with "Not for a boozed
Murphy's bull." And moreover gave me also
an actual basis for the curial cursal-cursive
as leaded from the Scarlet Pontiff ~~[illegible]~~ o' the ~~[illegible]~~
West. For though, according to what my mother told me,
~~[illegible]~~ Eb B. was very sparing in his use of oaths
or "bad language" (as she called it) of any sort,
None the less when really put out (as in
the case of the demands of the Skipper from
Palermo) he would say with much
emphasis: "No, I will not, not for
you nor any one, not for the
Pope o' Rome".

Also (see P. 121) he used to say
when faced with a difficult task
"I'll manage somehow, or dash me buttons"

So, ~~[illegible]~~ almost all Redriff depended
on what I had heard from my mother, decades
before the Anathemata was being written.

But the odd thing is that this material had ~~seemed~~ remained dormant in my mind until I began working on those parts of *The Ana*. That is to say until c. 1947–51.

For in 1946 I ~~was~~ came to Harrow to have psychiatric treatment at Bowden House under Bill Stephenson from June '46 to Dec '46 with astonishingly satisfactory results. I went to Northwick Lodge to Mr Carlile's house intending to stay a few weeks but as it turned out was there for about fifteen years making water colours for the window & a number of large coloured inscriptions & decided to go through all the writing I had made during the II War in London, mainly in Sheffield Terrace. I found the material was alright, but would have to be gone through with a comb, so to say, whole chunks discarded, otherwise used with certain changes & a good deal more quite new, if the stuff was to make a whole. Large parts of *Rite & Foretime* were completely ~~both~~ new or used differently. *The Lady of Pool* & *Redriff* & most of *Mabinog Liturgy* were recast ~~or~~ quite new. There were ~~chunks~~ other pieces that I cut out with some regret & with great uncertainty as to what must stay or would have to go. Parts of this discarded material I have subsequently used again with modifications or differing emphases in the various fragments published since *The Ana*. *The Sleeping Lord* could be said to be virtually wholly new — I worked on it from November 1966 to March 1967 with no more than a ~~few words~~ few words more or less from the earlier wodges of stuff out of which *The Ana* came into being.

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I enclose with this letter
yr typescript ~~[illegible]~~ drafts of sheets 29,30, 33, 34, 35 36 37 & 20A.
with various remarks. ~~You~~ sent me also sheets – only think
four or five ~~sheets~~ ~~[illegible]~~ number marked ~~[illegible]~~ & ended with 47.
I went through them carefully marked them & now I can't find
them. Though I had put them carefully aside – but can't
~~[illegible]~~ them ~~[illegible]~~ confound ~~it~~ them.

Our letters seem to cross – I mean things you want
to know I ~~[illegible]~~ may have already mentioned & vice versa
I ~~[illegible]~~ have now with me Angle Land & Middle Sea & Lear Sea
but only partly remarked upon in margin & certain things
noted where my intended meaning does not quite correspond
with yr typescript interpretation, so will
return these later, along with the few sheets mentioned
above ending 47. (I cant immagine where I put
the bloody things) unless it is I sent them
did you receive safely the typescript of Rite & Foretime
~~[illegible]~~ in a large envelope some time back.

Much love to you dear René
and of course to Joan.

God bless you
Yours as ever
Dai

PS.

I gave a letter to someone to post yesterday, 3rd Sept
& mentioned on envelope that your letter of 2nd
had arrived. All explained somewhat in letter
about the Schleswig urn burials.–